

Dragons Bloodline volume 6 – Before the Storm

written by hitoneko

Translated by ziru

The Garden

“Ah~ so peaceful~”

Ria was drinking some tea under a gazebo built in a garden.

Out of her usual character, she wore a dress. Because she liked her beautiful self, she didn't particularly hate dresses. The problem was just that men approached her when she wore dresses.

As something else unusual, Carla was wearing also wearing a dress—a white one—and was joining her in the tea party.

The dress suited her, too. It complemented her dignified nature, but her womanly points were emphasized when she wore dresses. It could be called a beauty that was befitting for a saintess.

In addition to those two, Shizuna, Fio, and Guinevere were also wearing dresses. It was a noble's tea party.

Although Guinevere was the only one there who wasn't Ria's bride, her relation to her would probably be as a sister through marriage soon enough.

Guinevere's son was also Ria's adopted son.

Immediately after Shizuna returned from Jaeburg, she participated in this tea party.

It appeared as though she told her parents a great many things, but Vargas gave his consent.

After that, Ria finished Cornada's processing with Carla, returning to Manesh in a carriage.

Although Ria was worried about Carla's mental state, since Matsukaze was sulking from her using a carriage and not him, she was the only one to return on horseback.

Carla was fully energized by the time they had returned to the capital... and so began document hell.

During her absence of just half a month, things that should have been dealt with had somehow piled up to about a full month's amount.

Because of that, it was only a month later that she had some free time.

When she thought about talking about her conversation with the demon king

Guinevere, unusually, Carla proposed that they have a tea party.

“Doing this every so often is good. Right here, relaxing under the sun.”

Everyone agreed with Ria’s leisurely remark. Basically, everyone other than Shizuna had a mountain of work to deal with.

By the way, in terms of interpersonal relationships, Guinevere was the one to laugh while being feared. Carla was the one to be liked by anyone. Ria was the husband, while there would be some discord between Fio and Shizuna.

However, today, those two didn’t have any problems.

“How is the taste?”

Carla had served some scones, but hadn’t had any herself. It’s not as though she’d poisoned them, though.

“They’re delicious. Did you make them, Carla-sama?”

Her mouth stuffed full, Shizuna asked. It was a bit shameless, but it wasn’t something that needed to pay too much attention to as Guinevere was doing the same thing.

“No, I asked for a cook from the palace to make them. It would have been somewhat inconvenient.”

It wasn’t that Carla was particularly unskilled in cooking. Ria had seen her cooking for herself in the dead of night before. It was just that she simply didn’t have the time.

“So, everyone, are your stomachs filled?”

Everyone nodded. Then, with an serious expression that matched her beauty—

“Let’s all have a chat.”

She was sitting straight up, looking each and every one of them in the eye.

Ria and the others instinctively straightened their backs as well.

“Originally, this is probably something that should be told to Ria alone first, but we are something like sisters, so...”

(Huh? This preface—)

“Therefore, I’ll say it here.”

For some reason, this felt like a breakup from a girl in Ria’s previous life.

Resolutely, Carla opened her mouth to speak.

“I am carrying a child.”

“Heh?”

“Huh?”

“Eh?”

“Who is?”

Healing

Pressing her face into her pillow after jumping into bed, Shizuna cried. What was making her sad? It was certain. Carla made a child. Carla suited Ria well. It was vexing, but she had to agree with that. There was no other human that Ria could entrust her back to than to Carla. That's exactly why she wasn't able to endure the thought of Carla being with another man.

"Shizuna, it's me. May I come in?"

It was the voice that she wanted to hear the least. She didn't even want to talk.

"I think there's been a misunderstanding, so we should talk."

What misunderstanding could there be? She believed there was nothing to talk about.

However, Carla was obstinate, gently calling Shizuna many times, as well as lightly knocking on her door.

Finally, Shizuna yielded and opened the door.

Shizuna had already taken off her dress and was standing in what was pretty much just her underwear. She didn't appear to mind someone seeing her.

"May I enter?"

"Go for it."

As-is, Shizuna sat on her bed. Carla, who thought that she was going to use the sofa, sat next to her.

"Shizuna, you have misunderstood something."

"Misunderstood? You shook your hips with some man and got pregnant, what's there to misunderstand?"

Her manner of speech was intense, but Carla didn't appear to be hurt by it.

"It's a misunderstanding. I will also tell you about the living beings known as dragons."

Shizuna looked her straight in the eyes, not breaking away from Carla's gaze and enduring it.

Carla's eyes were like they would breathe her in. As if there were no ill feelings

between them, they were fixed on Shizuna.

“To begin with, the cause is the mine and Ria’s dragon ancestry.”

That the dragons were originally living creatures that were all female and would change into males to leave a descendant if necessary.

That Ria and Carla who inherited the blood of dragons also appeared to have this characteristic.

That after Carla fought against a demon and was dangerously close to dying, their feelings for each other rose.

As a result of all of that, Carla, who shouldn’t have been able to birth a child, was able to have one.

Thanks to repeating this explanation many times over in her head, she was able to smoothly tell Shizuna everything.

However, Shizuna was dissatisfied.

“You know, I... before you met Ria, I slept with her.”

It was her sole superiority complex.

Even so, Carla’s expression remained unchanged.

“It didn’t happen with you, though.

In other words, Ria at that time did not seriously desire Shizuna.

When Shizuna thought about that, she almost cried.

Carla gently held Shizuna’s shoulders.

“There are several reasons I have thought of, but only one that can easily be proven.”

“Eh?”

Just as Shizuna blinked from the surprise, Carla spontaneously stole a kiss.

“... Eh?”

Carla pushed the stunned Shizuna down onto the bed.

“Uuuuuuh—um, Carla, I-I don’t have this kind of hobby!”

“It doesn’t matter either way.”

“Eeeeh—!?”

Carla’s hand stripped Shizuna of her clothing in a refined movement. Shizuna started to call for someone... when she realized that it was incredibly complicated and hard to do.

“Aaah, umm, why!?”

“I’ve been watching you, thinking the whole time.”

Carla stared at Shizuna motionlessly.

“I want you—”

Ria’s eyes were eyes that dominated everything. Contrasting that, Carla’s eyes were eyes that absorbed everything.

Hostility, malice, even hatred.

Draining it.

Washing it all away.

“—Shizuna, I love you.”

“Eh, but you’re, Ria’s...”

“The people that Ria loves, are people that I love.”

Shizuna was confused. However, she found that she couldn’t put energy into her body.

Carla took off her own dress as well. Shizuna, seeing Carla’s dew-like naked body for the first time, held her breath in surprise.

The thing that was below Carla’s abdomen was something that should have been on a man.

“When I felt like I wanted to comfort you... something hot came from inside my body.”

Carla’s bare face was flushed.

“Like Ria loves me, like Ria loves you, I also want to love you.”

Carla’s caress was similar to Ria’s. As though to answer that, Shizuna’s body heated up as well.

“Shizuna, thank you. Staying like this would be painful, so please... accept me.”

Saying that, Carla did truly look as though she were in pain and sweating, she was somewhat cute.

Shizuna spread her legs.

After doing it several times, Carla removed any and all traces of the act and put her dress back on.

Shizuna was laying on the bed naked with her eyes closed, but there were marks from Carla’s mouth on hidden areas across her body.

“Come to think of it, what was it... that made it successful this time?”

Carla touched the hair of the muttering Shizuna. Shizuna felt good with just that

much, going into a fit.

“There are several things that I can think of, but...”

The first one, although it was a horrible one as far as Shizuna was concerned, was that when she had slept with Ria at that time, Ria still hadn’t made her resolution.

It was also possible that the ability appeared due to Ria mating with Carla.

Moreover, there was also a problem on Shizuna’s side of it, too.

“Me?”

Shizuna shook her head. She couldn’t think of anything.

On that first night, Shizuna intended to devote her everything to Ria from the bottom of her heart.

“Yeah, however, unlike dragons, humans have a breeding cycle.”

Dragons decided their breeding with their own intentions. Looking at it another way, they did not mate without the intention to breed.

“For a long time now, I have thought of you as dear. However, in truth, as for thinking about wanting to mate with you, that was just now.”

She had only tried to comfort her until now.

“Though perhaps... with that just now, you may have conceived a child.”

Her words may as well have been an attack.

Shizuna stood up, but her head felt dizzy like she had anemia.

Carla hugged her closely.

“Bad... this is bad...!”

“What is?”

“Because, I am Ria’s bride...”

“I don’t see the problem.”

Following that, Carla said something wise.

“What is Ria’s is mine. What is mine is Ria’s.”

Carla continued despite the astonishment Shizuna was going through.

“You, who Ria loves, is loved by me who Ria loves. There is no problem. If anything, I don’t mind taking responsibility for everything.”

“No, that would be bad for me...”

Carla was calm even at a time like this, but she wondered what Ria would think.

"Let's talk with just the three of us this time. We shouldn't consult anyone else about this..."

Although that is what was tentatively decided for now, there unexpectedly wouldn't be a chance for the three to talk.

The reason?

Ria would be heading to the dwarf's village.

Pride of the Dwarves

Dwarves were a stubborn race.

That was also to say that their dispositions were stubborn of course, but they were also stubborn in the results of their work.

Consequently, they wouldn't undertake work that they themselves couldn't comprehend, but even so it would take time to complete even if they accepted it.

A report came from those dwarves. It said: "Furnace done, round up a mountain of mages and bring them here."

In other words, it meant that magic would be used together with them forging the katana, but it wasn't like they could simply just go out and gather mages.

Currently, Ogress was polishing its golem soldier plan that had played a leading role in the former Manesh. Mages were necessary for that, but—

"Oh my, shall we go?"

—Guinevere herself was the one to propose it.

The steps they needed to take right now, although it's magic, were more about the practical implementation of it than the theoretical side. Since Guinevere was going, that meant that a substantial part of the court would be going to the dwarven village as well.

However, the dwarves weren't concerned with things like kings and queens coming to their village.

"And so, Carla absolutely can't drink alcohol."

They had to take precautions in advance. It wasn't like dwarves were irrational, they probably wouldn't make a pregnant woman drink alcohol.

Together with Shizuna, Carla rode on a specially made suspended carriage.

Since Guinevere was riding on it as well, it was quite like a gathering of VIPs.

"So, what are you two hiding?"

Guinevere suddenly asked them a question. She turned her Dragon Eyes to Shizuna.

"Eh, I-I'm not hiding anything."

"There is something, but I can't say it now."

Unlike Shizuna, Carla, her long-time acquaintance, answered her.

“Oh my? Does this secret have something to do with Ria by some chance?”

“It is related to Ria, so I will talk about it after talking with her.”

“Hmm? Well, so long as it doesn’t break our friendship.”

It sounded insincere, but Guinevere felt lonely.

In particular, not getting between friends was an emotion burden for her. It was a childhood trauma.

Defended by golem soldiers, the group faced the dwarven village. Just then, Irina joined them.

It appeared that Maal sent them a letter by blasting it down the road with Irina in her orichalcum armor on Rudolph’s back.

“Onee-chan!”

With a bang, Irina embraced Ria while holding onto the letter from Maal.

“... What!?”

Seeing the letter’s contents, Ria clenched her fist.

“Irina, is this true?”

“Yeah~”

In the letter, it said that Maal was getting married.

The groom was her childhood friend who had participated in the recent war.

“Uuu~aaah~”

On Matsukaze’s back, Ria suffered.

She’d somehow wound up becoming a queen, so she wasn’t able to easily participate in her friend’s wedding.

“Fio~, prepare a present to give her. Food would be great if possible, I’ll write a letter.”

It felt like her friends were all getting hooked up. Gig was also about to be the marriageable age for an ogre here soon...

“Ah~, maybe I should have a proper wedding with Carla...”

If she didn’t properly explain the Dragon’s Bloodline, Carla’s child would end up being treated as illegitimate.

Even if it was something that should be a happy thing, her troubles just kept on increasing.

The night on the day after they reached the dwarven village, the four were finally able to have their meeting.

Ria, Carla, Shizuna, as well as the dragon, Irina.

There, Carla quickly explained that she had sprouted the manly feature and mated with Shizuna.

(Hmm.)

Ria thought about it. Assuming that Shizuna was pregnant, that wasn't the problem. If it was Carla's child, she'd love it as though it were her own.

The problem was why she wasn't able to do it herself when they had done it.

Seeing Ria lost in thought, Shizuna felt uneasy. Simply put, she'd cheated on her. However, Ria didn't care about that.

“Carla and Shizuna’s child is the same as mine. Don’t worry. However...”

Ria’s expression changed and she scowled at Carla.

“The next time this happens, I’ll be watching. Rather, I’ll be joining you.”

“Understood.”

“Understood what!?”

Shizuna’s shout echoed through the night.

“Rather, how about we do it now?”

“I don’t mind, but...”

“She’s pregnant! Don’t strain her body!”

“Hmm? What’s that mean?”

“In the language of another world, it means goldsmith.”

“Heeh... Un, I like it.”

Like that, the Holy Sword Orfèvre was born.

By the way, the katana that Ria named Gallach was called another name by the dwarves later on.

That was: [Pride of the Dwarves].

The Queen's Marriage

“So you’re Maal’s groom!”

“Y-yes!”

Due to being glared at by Ria’s Dragon Eyes, the cat beastkin solidified completely.

It was a beastkin with gray tiger stripes originating from his neck. It appeared he was a year older than Maal.

And his name was Niko.

They were at Maal’s new house.

Even if it was called a new house, since it was previously used by a family that was moved to another village, it was just a deserted house.

It was completely cleaned out and had the minimum required furnishings. Maal seemed to have prepared it all with money she’d received from Ria.

“Hmph, if you’re a man, you should have built a new house yourself.”

Ria was saying mean stuff, but she knew that herself.

At any rate, her hug pillow that she loved more than a little sister was being taken away by some other man.

“Well whatever, let’s hear how you two fell in love.”

She sat down on a chair with a thump. Since it was for a beastkin to use, it was a bit small.

Though she’d said she wanted to know how they fell in love, they were childhood friends to start with.

The boy was still young when Maal had encountered the slave hunters and wasn’t able to do anything.

However, he gained experience in that following year during his travels out to find Maal’s whereabouts.

There were various things that happened during his journeys, but they’ll be left out.

Hearing Ria’s most repeated propaganda of releasing beastkin during the war against Cordova, he joined in. It looked as though he’d earned himself a few achievements in attacking their supply lines.

During all that, he appeared to have found Maal after searching for so long.

When he returned to the village after the war with Maal, he learned that she came back after being released from slavery.

Worried that something else might happen, he immediately proposed to her.

Getting her consent, they held a wedding and now there they were.

Ria really wanted to see Maal in her bridal outfit, but beastkin didn't particularly wear bridal outfits; they would simply dress up a bit and hold a party, announcing to everyone that they'd gotten married.

Even when she'd asked Irina—who had participated in it—about what happened, she only really remembered that the food was luxurious.

“I see. Got it.”

Ria's Dragon Eyes vanished, finally releasing Niko.

“It's unfortunate that I wasn't able to make it, but there's no fixing that now. However, please come to mine.”

“Eeh!? Ria-chan's getting married!?”

Maal was surprised, but that much was natural as she hadn't been filled in on the details yeah.

“Yeah, Carla and Shizuna are already my wives, and Fio talked to her parents.”

“Huh?”

Niko's reaction was natural, too.

Ria gave them a brief explanation. About ryuujin. About how they were both genders. And that two of them were already pregnant.

“Heeh, congratulations.”

“So there's a race like that...”

The couple had that sort of reaction.

More than five hundred thousand citizens benefited from the temporary stalls and free gladiator competitions that were held in Manesh.

Of course, there were also people who were looking at the situation without being swept away by the fleeting enjoyment.

In the corner of a noisy dining room, Halt and Ferna were sipping some stew.

“Haah, what now...”

Ferna ended up sticking with Halt quite forcibly, but she didn't have any vision

for what they should do from here on.

However, Halt, who'd experienced existence as the hero turned into the demon king, had already been thinking about where to go.

As for what Halt was thinking, it was probably something that would clash with the Black Cats...

“We’re going to Casalia, followed by Lemdria after that.”

“Lem...!”

That was where Black Cats’ base was located.

Ferna had heard that Halt was avoiding Lemdria.

“It’s dangerous!”

“I’ll be alright, I still have about three trump cards. Besides, I’m not going there to fight.”

Saying that, Halt put on his usual radiant smile.

“Meanwhile, I want you to defend this country. To be precise, the Manesh duke and the Uslan marquess.”

Those two were dragonslayers.

Though either of them should be no weaker than Ferna, what danger would approach them?

“Mmm... they may or may not be attacked by some demon or some organization’s assassins. Particularly the pregnant Uslan marquess.”

Halt, the demon king, intended to help Ogress. Even if they had killed one of the demon tribe’s leadership, he hadn’t changed his mind.

And so, how would the Black Cats make their move? They should be on the side of humans, but since there was a possibility that Ogress was working together with the demon tribe, Ferna couldn’t tell what sort of decision Yamato would make.

“Are you really not going to be in danger?”

In the and, that was all.

Ferna was simply worried about Halt.

“Yes. I’m a coward, after all. I’ll run away as soon as I think it’s dangerous.”

Ferna had no choice but to believe in his words.

Things like that were the pitfalls of being in love.

“And so, Ferna-san, please do that for me.”

“Understood.”

Even if it was just her delusion, she felt that their relationship was an equal one. For right now, for Ferna, that was enough.

Hometown

Ryuuke Riana Crystal Casalia Ogress returned to her hometown. As far as Casalia was concerned, this was a major scandal. The present king's eldest child was illegitimate, and despite being the eldest daughter, she was a troubling existence to handle. And what was more troubling, she was a ryuujin. Although no one really knew exactly what being a ryuujin meant, whether they were asexual or hermaphroditic for example, they did know that they could leave offspring as a man could. In actuality, their court had already received information that the two wives she left in Manesh were already pregnant.

In order for Ria to return to Anise, she needed to bring a proper group along. 500 elite ogres, 300 elite dwarves, 1000 elite beastkin, as well as 1000 humans. It held the meaning of stating that the country named Ogress was a nation of all races. They only numbered 3000, but their purpose wasn't to needlessly provoke Casalia, as well as the simple fact that they didn't have Serge to handle the serious matter of food transportation.

At any rate, wearing jet black armor in the middle of the group with a red-lined black cloak, Ria stood out.

She wasn't wearing a mask either. Today, she would enter with her face exposed to the citizens. Many of the people who came out to see her swooned after seeing her face.

She had suitably polished her looks in preparation for this day.

She got off her horse when she entered the castle gate. Members of the royal family could ride on horseback until another gate, but this was proof that as archduke, she had already settled into her rank as a vassal.

But without even wearing a small blade on her person and with a not-so-large body, she strode forth into the court in a dignified manner.

To begin with, her status as a human was different.

People that inadvertently saw her Dragon Eyes found themselves unable to stand, taking a knee on the spot.

During the meeting, Ria kneeled, not as family, but as a retainer. Her royal father, Neyas, persistently received Ria as his daughter. "Rise, my daughter."

Ria felt that his voice had weakened.

Thinking about it, Ria had run away from the court around the time various complicated and mysterious things started to happen while her father confronted it all. Even if he had no choice but to do so, she thought it was something to be praised.

"You've grown taller. It's been two years, hasn't it?"

In that period, it looked as though Ria had more siblings. She wondered if it might turn into something complicated again.

Her royal father sat above her on the throne, relying on it to prop himself up. Even without using Dragon Eyes, it was easy for her to see how fatigued he had become.

A cabinet minister standing at the bottom of the stairs enumerated Ria's achievements. If they were true—all of it was true—it was already the work of a hero.

Even though they were already aware, now that it was being recited in front of them, it was natural to doubt if it were all true.

A sense of reverent awe never before seen filled the palace, as well as a sense of envy that could pierce skin.

Once the minister had finished reciting all of Ria's achievements, the king stood up from the throne.

"I once again recognize that my daughter, Ryuke Riana, is the head of the new archduke family, Ogress."

Applause and shouts of joy sounded out following the king's declaration.

The negotiations between Ria and Casalia's governing body ended relatively amicably.

If there had to be a problem, it was probably the difference in how much danger each side felt concerning the Millennium.

Contrasting how Casalia's governing body felt that it would be an ordinary war against the demon tribe, Ria felt that it would be something different.

Otherwise, Ria shouldn't have been able to gain as many allies and supporters as she did in the fight against Cordova.

Something had to be pushing them towards the Great Collapse. However, the person that knew more about the Great Collapse was no longer on humanity's side.

After the daily conferences and feasts, Ria decided to return home to Ogress. Yes, return home. Ria no longer considered Anise her home. Although Anise was the place she was born and raised, in Ria's heart, Manesh was her home. The next time she came, Anise might no longer exist. Conversely, there was the possibility that Manesh might be the one that didn't exist. Looking back towards the royal castle, Ria left Anise.

The Demon King vs. The Black Cats

He wasn't negligent. However, he was stupid.
He shouldn't have come to Lemdria after all.
That he had to fight against those monstrous people...
In a literal frantic mood, Halt fled from his pursuers.
(I was careless since nothing bad's happened recently~!)

Dashing through forests and plains, he finally reached the wilderness.
No, it wasn't even a wilderness.
It was a place where no living things existed at all. In its center was a crater of gargantuan proportions.
Of the place where the imperial capital once stood, this was all that was left. Of the three million inhabitants that lived there, this was all that was left.

As he tried to escape from there, he realized that he wasn't be able to.
They got here before him. No, maybe they were pushing him here from the start?
There was a magical barrier. He couldn't even teleport and immediately knew who made it from just how strong it was.
“Azel, Al-san too...?”

Both were called Great Sages, the strongest mages in the continent.
And as for who was approaching him from behind...
“Halt, there's no use in trying to run anymore.”

Shana. A scarlet-haired mage that used the strongest destruction magic.
“Well, you went a bit too far.”

Longsword in hand, a giant stood as though to protect her.
Thor. Likely the strongest swordsman in the continent.
A hint of sadness was mixed into his expression.

“Thor-san...”

An existence that came from the same world as Halt, he was once called a hero.
However, right now, he was an enemy. To destroy the work, or to stop it just beforehand?
They had ended up choosing different paths.

“Hey, don’t you want to start the Millennium now? The circulation of souls will, in the end, save this world from ruin. Don’t you understand that?”

Thor was the only one to still be so naive.

Defeating the former Demon King together with him, Azel and Shana had none of that naivety left. Towards Halt Arisugawa, that is.

“Trying to persuade him won’t help.”

The person to appear from the depths was Black Cat’s leader.

Yamato. However, a very limited number of people knew the man’s real name.

“Shifaka-san...”

The strongest of the strong. Halt couldn’t win against him in any way. He was the strongest man in the continent.

Saint Emperor Ryuuke Shifaka.

Living for more than three thousand years, he was an existence that surpassed even a dragon.

“Killing you will spur the demon tribe into action, ringing the opening bell to the Millennium. There is no other way to save this world.”

Yamato’s—Shifaka’s voice sounded tired.

Setting aside three thousand years, he was an aged old man that had lived through many years.

“Doing that would snatch away any chance this world has of avoiding the same thing that has repeated countless times, do you believe yourself a savior!?”

Halt barked. Summoned as a hero, he’d seen thousands, no, millions of people dying.

Compared to that, this man had seen several times that number.

“I am no savior. I wish to prevent the Great Collapse from three millennia ago from happening yet again. I live for that reason alone.”

The Great Collapse.

It was something that absolutely had to be prevented. However, that meant taking away every living thing’s future.

“In the end, you couldn’t do anything at all.”

His voice filled with anguish, Halt muttered.

“I will do the same thing over and over, just my companions will change a little. I have no intention of leaving demons or humans alive.”

Halt’s mana surged, despite knowing that he definitely held no chance against

this many opponents.

“While we went through the same thousand years, even though I failed countless times, I’ve been searching for a future.”

The number of lives sacrificed didn’t stop in the thousands, tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands. All of those deaths were due to the Demon King.

However, he still believed in a possible outcome.

An outcome for the Great Collapse and for the world to make its way past its ruin.

“Preventing teleportation and summoning... will be the reason all of you lost.”

In that moment, Halt was unlike his usual self—the look in his eyes was unbelievably cold.

“Summon, Demon King Machine God [Demon’s Bane].”

A giant summoning formation appeared in the sky above them.

No one there was so unintuitive as to be unable to feel how dangerous it was.

“Come, Humanoid Fighting Weapon [Evangelion].”

A golem that exceeded fifty meters in height. However, its true wasn’t obvious from its appearance.

“That’s... no way...”

Only Thor—someone from another world—Toru Hakamada, knew that it was something impossible.

Halt opened the golem’s chest and entered into the red crystal on its body.

Horned like a devil, its humanoid body was jet-black with two daggers in its hands.

“While you all desperately maneuvered behind the scenes to keep the balance of this world’s humans, I’ve been believing solely in the possibility of having a future.”

Halt’s voice boomed.

“That crystal, it’s...?”

“Are you serious...?”

“Thor, what is that thing?”

Shifaka was the only one calm, even in a situation like this. However, that calmness didn’t stem from courage, but from indifference to everything.

“That is the power of science. Moreover, it likely uses the power of magic as well...”

Thor knew. He knew just how dangerous it was.

“It isn’t a golem. It’s a weapon for the endgame.”

“Really.”

Shifaka drew his sword. A divine sword. It had killed a god, so it was a true divine sword.

“It makes no difference either way.”

And so the battle began.

There was no loser.

However, the Black Cats withdrew.

Shifaka made the call to withdraw before they started losing people.

In other words—

The one to win... was the Demon King.

The heck.

The heck kind of people are they.

Really, those people, what were they thinking?

Even though I was trying so hard to go and make an entrance with a bang for a final battle all like, “This is my decisive tactical-grade humanoid weapon!”

If they gang up on me in a five on one like that, even I wouldn’t have the luxury of holding back!

It’s good they fell back after getting tricked by my bluff, but my secret weapon took damage!

No mater how far away from sight we are, Cursed Wild Dance is too much isn’t it? Even using stuff like Thermonuclear Darkness Exploding Hell and Meteor Shower... come on, give me a break!

Ahh, the armor’s all bent out of shape and the magic formation is crumbling in a few places. Those foremen are going to be angry... or maybe they’ll be happy to have more work? Those people are work junkies after all.

Well, it wasn’t all bad. Even if I worked it out in advance, I was able to measure its operating time limit in actual combat.

Alright, time to teleport. Good work.

“Halt-san... no, Your Majesty Ars.”

Ah, Ferna-san. How long have you been here?

Eh? Your eyes are sparkling.

Hey, seriously, stop it. I'm no good against that kind of attack!

Yep, I really appreciate you coming over to our side from the bottom of my heart though.

But you have the same look as my retainers right now.

I don't like that, so that's why I've been going solo.

"I will follow your dreams!"

Wow, it came!

The ideal declaration!

"Ferna-san, please stop. My dream isn't something so wonderful."

No, really. My dream is pretty haphazard you know?

My motivation of wanting to preserve how things are comes from my life in Japan after all.

As an outcome of learning what the Millennium's meaning is and what not to do against the Great Collapse, there's already no one but me that can do anything... Ah, that might not be true? Those people have strength, so if the dragons feel like it, they might make survive the Millennium too.

In the end, I'm just doing what I want to do.

Maybe I should've went to Ogress?

"I'm just doing things that I feel like doing."

Really, I'm telling the truth. It's just something that won't come true without saving the world.

Even now, if there's someone that wants to swap out with me, could you please?

Ah, Ferna-san, please quit it with that pose of holding your fist over your chest.

Ah, and please stop your eyes from shining like that.

Yep, I understand. I do. It's been directed at me many times after all.

It's the look where someone falls in love.

There's still time for you, so please go and chase after some boy your age and not some old grandpa. I'm even older than your great grandpa!

Yep, she's my type, so I have to somehow deal with it now before she approaches me. I might not be able to reject her at that point!

While I thought about stuff like that, one of my adorable children appeared.

“Your Majesty~”

Looks like the barrier’s gone too. Well, if I used my real trump card, it’d probably be able to make it through, but it’s still incomplete.

The adorable flaxen-haired vampire descended in front of my and took my right hand. Ooh, she’s soft. No no, this is just familial love.

Rei turned up after her as well. As expected, devil wings are faster.

“I was so worried! No, I actually wasn’t worried in the least!”

Eh, what?

Hmmm, is it that she had full trust in me?

Well, it’s better than if you had joined in on that fight.

But I’ll be sad if you don’t worry about me at least a little you know?

“Your Majesty...”

Rei stopped, standing a step away from me. She looked like she might start crying at any moment though.

Ah, she was worried huh. There were two heroes and two great sages as my opponents after all. I’ll take my time slowly patting her head later.

H-huh?

Ferna-san’s grasping my left hand?

Moreover, she and Asuka are glaring at each other?

“Your Majesty, who is this woman?”

“Ah, she’s Ferna-san, she became my companion.”

“Hello, please call me Ferna.”

Ah, Asuka-san, even if they’ve grown bigger, please stop pushing your chest against me.

I’ve known you since you were a baby. I remember you screaming from having your diaper changed!

Even if you grew up to be so adorable, as expected, my morals are hard at work...

“Good to meet you. I am Ars-sama’s adopted child, Asuka.”

Even though I say morals, there was that person huh, Princess Guinevere.

In that dicey time just after frantically defeating that dragon, we wound doing it after she said something adorably pure.

“At the very least, I want to offer my chastity to the person I love from the bottom of my heart.”

No man would refuse after hearing something like that right?

But you know, if you think about it.

The only remaining member of that royal family is that person.

With Carla’s massive war potential and her being a solid ally, she could choose whatever lover she wanted. It might not be my child.

Thinking about it now, I’m not obligated to do anything, so I think I chose right yeah?

That person was fundamentally a scheming one. Maybe I should call her a wicked woman? No, a bad child!

Well, she made me feel comfortable, so I don’t have the right to say anything though.

Maybe it’s alright for me to gripe in my mind?

While thinking about stuff like that, Ferna-san wound up grabbing my left arm.

... Umm, Ferna-san...

Even if I look like this, I am a man.

The destructive power of boobs is a menace to all men.

“For now, let’s guide Ferna-san back to base.”

The girls gathered around for teleportation. Rei, your chest is just as lethal as usually. Hurry up and find a good man, it’s your pop’s request!

I’ll make sure the man’s up to snuff though of course!

“This room is somewhat unusual, isn’t it?”

Yep, this should be the first time Ferna-san’s seen a room like this so her reaction’s normal.

This room is based off of an average Japanese house... in other words, I made it look like my old room.

Moreover, it has a bath, toilet, and kitchen added on, so I’ve been living like this. Ah, but really, I’m tired.

I didn’t think that those people would catch up to my thousand years of

accumulation though.

But even so, I wanted to stay hidden as long as possible.

"Sorry, could you keep watch? I'm going to go to sleep for a while..."

Using so much mana's made me really tired...

I found various things that can be improved though...

Anyway, for now, sleep is justice!

So, Asuka-san.

Stop trying to sleep with me...

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